

CHAPTER 6. INTERNMENT OPERATIONS

The DOD Directive 2310.1, *DOD Program for Enemy Prisoners of War (EPOW) and Other Detainees*, designates the Secretary of the Army as the executive agent for the administration of the DOD EPW/Detainee Program. When operating jointly, the U.S. Army receives detainees captured by the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, and/or Air Force. The U.S. Army receives prisoners as soon as possible after capturing forces complete initial classification and administrative processing.

Military police support the MAGTF and relieve the concern over EPWs and CIs by undertaking administrative processing of internment operations. Internment operations are the confinement and handling of EPWs, CIs, dislocated civilians, and U.S. military prisoners during wartime and other expeditionary operations. The handling of EPWs and CIs is a tactical and operational consideration that must be addressed during planning to prevent forces from being impeded by large numbers of EPWs and CIs. During Desert Storm, coalition forces captured 86,743 EPWs and CIs; only 1,492 were categorized as innocent civilians. The impact of a large prisoner and internee population on operations can slow tempo and burden combat forces. Internee operations are conducted to free the MAGTF commander of this administrative burden.

Through the use of collecting points and holding areas, military police furnish the commander with the ability to collect, process, guard, protect, account for, and transfer EPWs and CIs. Military police enhance the tempo of operations by providing for the quick control of prisoners from the forward battle area to temporary holding areas and, in joint operations, on to U.S. Army EPW and CI holding facilities. In addition, military police aid in the movement of forces by clearing the AO of EPWs and CIs.

These MP efforts prevent the diversion and tasking of other MAGTF resources to conduct internment operations, which aids in the maintenance of combat strength. Although military police provide the MAGTF commander with these unique capabilities, internment operations are manpower intensive. To maximize the capabilities of limited MP assets, the MAGTF commander must prioritize the MP missions and taskings.

Even though military police support the MAGTF by undertaking internment operations, commanders and staffs should understand the Geneva Conventions and the U.S. policy governing provisions for handling EPWs and CIs. Commanders should also understand the objectives, principles, and the MP role in internment operations.

Geneva Conventions

Internment operations are governed by the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 12 August 1949 were ratified by the United States and came into force for this country on 2 February 1956. Comprised of four treaties, the Geneva Conventions provide internationally recognized humanitarian standards for the treatment of victims of war. As such, the United States recognizes the spirit and intent of these treaties in its treatment of EPWs, CIs, and detained persons.

Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949

The governing motive of this Convention is to provide for the humane treatment of EPWs by the parties to a conflict. It regulates, in detail, the treatment of EPWs, including—

- | Care, food, clothing, and housing.
- | Discipline and punishment.
- | Labor and pay.
- | External relations.
- | Representation.
- | International exchange of information.
- | Termination of captivity.

Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949

This Convention deals with the general protection of populations against the consequences of war, the status and treatment of protected persons, and the treatment of CIs.

Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949

This Convention provides for the protection of members of armed forces and other persons who are wounded and sick on the battlefield. It provides for members of the conflict to take all possible measures to—

- 1 Search for and collect the wounded and sick.
- 1 Protect them against pillage and ill treatment.
- 1 Insure their adequate care.
- 1 Search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949

This Convention deals with the humane treatment and protection by the parties to a conflict of armed forces members and other persons at sea who are wounded, sick, or shipwrecked. This treaty also deals with the protection of hospital ships and burial at sea.

Protection Provisions

The provisions of the Geneva Conventions are applicable to EPWs and CIs from the time of their capture until release or repatriation. Persons taken captive must be given the protection to which they are entitled as an EPW or CI.

The EPW or CI must receive humane treatment without distinction founded on race, sex, nationality, religious belief, political opinions, or other similar criteria. The EPWs or CIs may not be murdered, mutilated, tortured, or degraded, nor may they be punished for alleged criminal acts without a previous judgment pronounced by a legally constituted court which has accorded them those judicial guarantees. Individuals and capturing nations are responsible for acts committed against EPWs and CI, which are in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

The EPWs and CIs are entitled to respect and honor as human beings. They are to be protected against acts of violence, insults, public curiosity, and reprisals. They

are not to be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experimentation, which is not required incident to normal medical, dental, or hospital treatment.

No form of coercion may be inflicted on EPWs and CIs to obtain information. Those who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment. Female EPWs and CIs are to receive treatment at least as favorable as that accorded to male EPWs and CIs.

U.S. Governing Policy

In accordance with the Geneva Conventions, U.S. policy directs that EPWs and other enemy personnel captured, interned, or held in custody during the course of a conflict shall be afforded humanitarian care and treatment from the moment of custody until final release or repatriation. The observance of this policy is binding on U.S. personnel.

This policy also applies to the protection of detained or interned personnel whether their status is that of prisoner of war, civilian internee, or a criminal suspected of a war crime. The punishment of criminals is administered by due process of law and under legally constituted authority. The administration of inhumane treatment, even if committed under stress of combat and with deep provocation, is a serious and punishable violation under national law, international law, and the UCMJ.

Categories of Enemy Prisoners of War

Captured enemy personnel may be presumed to be EPW immediately upon capture if they are armed uniformed enemy. Should any question arise as to whether enemy personnel captured by U.S. Forces belong to the following categories, such personnel must receive the same treatment to which EPW are entitled until competent military authority has determined their status. Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 4-11.8C, *Enemy Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees*, describes EPW classification criteria.

The Geneva Conventions define EPWs as—

- 1 Members of the enemy armed forces as well as members of militias or volunteer corps forming part of such armed forces.
- 1 Members of other militias and members of other volunteer corps, including those of organized resistance movements, belonging to an enemy power and operating in or outside their own territory, even if this territory is occupied, provided that such militias or volunteer corps, including such organized resistance movements, fulfill the following conditions:
 - n That of being commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates.
 - n That of having a fixed distinctive sign recognizable at a distance.
 - n That of carrying arms openly.
 - n That of conducting their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.
- 1 Members of enemy regular armed forces who profess allegiance to a government or an authority not recognized by the detaining power.
- 1 Persons who accompany the armed forces of the enemy without actually being members thereof, such as civilian members of military aircraft crews, war correspondents, supply contractors, members of labor units, or of services responsible for the welfare of the enemy armed forces, provided that they have received authorization from the armed forces which they are accompanying.
- 1 Members of crews, including masters, pilots, and apprentices, of the merchant marine and the crews of civil aircraft of the enemy power, who do not benefit by more favorable treatment under any other provisions of international law.
- 1 Inhabitants of nonoccupied territory, who, on the approach of U.S. Forces, spontaneously take up arms to resist the invading forces, without having had time to form themselves into regular armed units, provided they carry arms openly and respect the laws and customs of war.
- 1 Persons belonging, or having belonged to the armed forces of a country occupied by U.S. Forces, if the commander considers it necessary by reason of such allegiance to intern them, even though they may have been originally liberated from EPW status while hostilities were going on outside the occupied territory.

Civilian Internees

A civilian internee is a person who is protected under the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and is interned during an armed conflict or occupation for security reasons. Civilian internees can also be interned for their protection, for the protection of the occupying force, or because the individual is suspected or convicted of an offense against the detaining power and sentenced to internment in lieu of confinement.

Internment Camps

Military police collect, process, evacuate, safeguard, and, if established, transfer CIs to U.S. Army internment camps. The handling of CIs and EPWs is similar; however, CIs are normally not processed or interned with EPWs. The CI camps provide for separate internment and complete administration of detained civilians. These camps are operated in the same manner as EPW facilities, with due regard given to the fundamental differences between the two categories. For example, special consideration is given to the age, physical condition, and the ability of civilians to adjust to internment conditions. Separate quarters are provided for family groups when the internment of more than one member of a family is necessary.

Conditions for Internment

The internment of civilian persons in a CI camp is authorized and directed if such persons satisfy the requirements for CI status and one of the following two conditions applies:

- 1 Internment has been determined by competent authority to be necessary for imperative reasons of security to the U.S. Forces in the occupied territory.
- 1 Internment has been directed by a properly constituted military court, sitting in the occupied territory, as the sentence for the conviction of an offense in violation of penal provisions properly promulgated by the occupying force.

Objectives of Internment Operations

Under the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, a capturing power is responsible, from the moment of capture or apprehension, for proper and humane treatment of detainees. The EPW and CI internment operations must provide for—

- ┆ Implementation of the Geneva Conventions provisions.
- ┆ Humane and efficient care and full accountability for persons captured or detained because of foreign military or related operations.
- ┆ Appropriate support of the military objectives of the United States.

Principles of Internment Operations

To achieve internment operation objectives, military police employ the following principles:

- ┆ Humane treatment.
- ┆ Prompt evacuation from the combat zone.
- ┆ Instruction to troops on the provisions of international agreements and regulations relating to EPWs and CIs.
- ┆ Integration of procedures for EPW and CI evacuation, control, and administration with other combat, combat support, and combat service support operations.

Internment Functions

Military police assist the MAGTF commander in the development of plans, policies, and procedures pertaining to EPWs and CIs. During operations, military police focus their efforts on collecting, safeguarding, processing, evacuating, and transferring EPWs and CIs. Specific guidance on legal and tactical requirements for EPW handling procedures can be found in MCRP 4-11.8C. Military police handle U.S. military prisoners separately.

Depending on the number of EPWs and CIs anticipated, military police may require augmentation. As a rule, an MP platoon can guard up to 500 captives;

a company can guard up to 2,000. During internment operations, military police—

- ┆ Perform security tasks.
- ┆ Exercise firm control.
- ┆ Establish collection control measures.
- ┆ Conduct field processing.
- ┆ Coordinate evacuations.

Security Tasks

Military police receive EPWs and CIs from operating forces as far forward as possible. When receiving prisoners, military police perform the following security tasks.

Searching

Military police search each EPW and CI as soon as they are captured or received. Searching is conducted for MP safety, to gather information, and to confiscate weapons and documents.

Segregating

Military police segregate EPWs and CIs into separate groups of officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted, civilians, as well as males and females. Segregation, and the resulting break up of the enemy chain of command, is crucial to the security and control of prisoners.

Silencing

Military police silence EPWs and CIs to prevent them from planning escapes or disruptions.

Safeguarding

Military police safeguard EPWs and CIs while they are in custody by ensuring that prisoners receive humane treatment.

Moving

Military police move prisoners from the point of capture to collecting points as soon as possible. Speedy removal from familiar surroundings lessens the likelihood of an attempted escape. To facilitate the rapid movement of EPWs and CIs to collecting points, military police make maximum use of available transportation returning to the rear.

Control

Military police treat EPWs and CIs humanely but firmly at all times. To maintain control and ensure

understanding, military police issue instructions to EPWs and CIs in their native language. Military police also issue a warning of the serious consequences, which may result from violations of such instructions.

While detained, captives may complain about the food, clothing, living conditions, or their treatment. Displays of conflict must be brought under control quickly to promptly and properly segregate and isolate offenders. By quickly restoring order, military police can maintain effective control of EPWs and CIs and avoid the use of physical and lethal force. Excessive force provides the captives a rallying point for future disturbances and can be the basis for enemy propaganda. To counter disruptions, military police develop and rehearse plans for defusing tense situations, handling unruly captives, and quelling riots.

Collection Control Measures

Capturing units are responsible for delivering EPWs and CIs to collecting points. Normally, military police operate collecting points to the immediate rear area of forward units. Collecting points and holding areas are established wherever they are needed. The MAGTF commander decides the general location of collecting

points, which are preferably located near an MSR to ease the movement of EPWs and CIs to the next echelon of internment and to facilitate the transportation of supplies and medical support. To support EPW and CI collection and evacuation efforts, military police establish forward collecting points, central collecting points, and holding areas.

Forward Collecting Point

Military police set up and operate forward collecting points to receive prisoners quickly from operating forces and to support the tempo of operations. See figure 6-1. The establishment of forward collecting points allows capturing forces the opportunity to rapidly transfer the custody of captives without hindering their own combat effectiveness.

At forward collecting points, military police conduct security tasks, process and secure the captives, and prepare them for evacuation to a central collecting point or holding area. As a rule, EPWs and CIs should be transferred from the forward collecting point within 24 hours.

The size of the forward collecting point enclosure and the placement of internal facilities, water, latrine, and

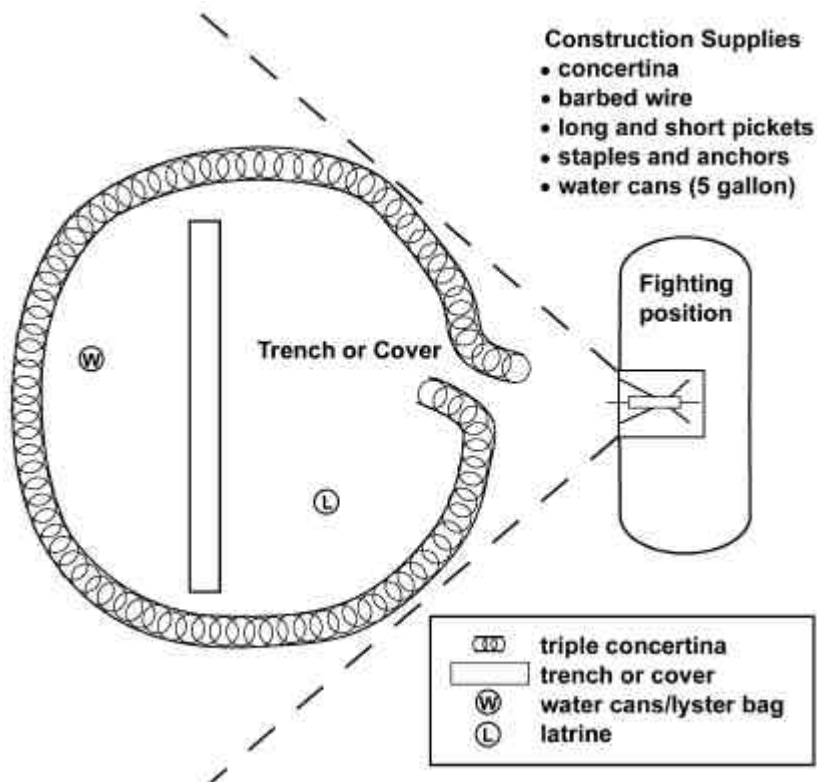


Figure 6-1. Example of a Forward Collecting Point.

trench, and cover vary based on the situation. Supplies and instructions on components are discussed in U.S. Army Field Manual (FM) 5-34, *Engineer Field Data*,

Central Collecting Point

A central collecting point is larger than a forward collecting point, but the considerations for setup and operations are the same. The EPWs and CIs are held at central collecting points until they can be transferred to holding areas. Military police use existing structures when possible to reduce construction requirements. See figure 6-2. The size, compound configuration, and placement of internal facilities, field processing site, and military intelligence screening site vary based on the situation. Instructions for the use of triple standard concertina wire can be found in FM 5-34.

Holding Areas

A holding area is a temporary structure, building, or enclosed area, where EPWs and CIs are held pending further evacuation. Holding areas accommodate more captives for longer stays than collecting points. Most

holding areas, like collecting points, are temporary facilities that must be able to move with little or no notice. Prisoners are interrogated and detained in holding areas until they can be evacuated farther to the rear. Although holding areas are temporary facilities, captives may remain at a holding area until they can be moved to a more permanent internment facility.

Usually one holding area is set up to support each MAGTF conducting operations. The first consideration in the selection of an EPW holding area is that it be adjacent to the evacuation route. Related considerations include the location of suitable existing facilities, proximity to supply areas, and protection from enemy activities. Holding areas are operated on an austere basis and should be designed to meet the minimum requirements necessary for the temporary retention of EPWs and CIs. Figure 6-3 is an example of a holding area with four, 120-person segregation compounds. The area includes receiving, field processing, screening, and intelligence collection sites.

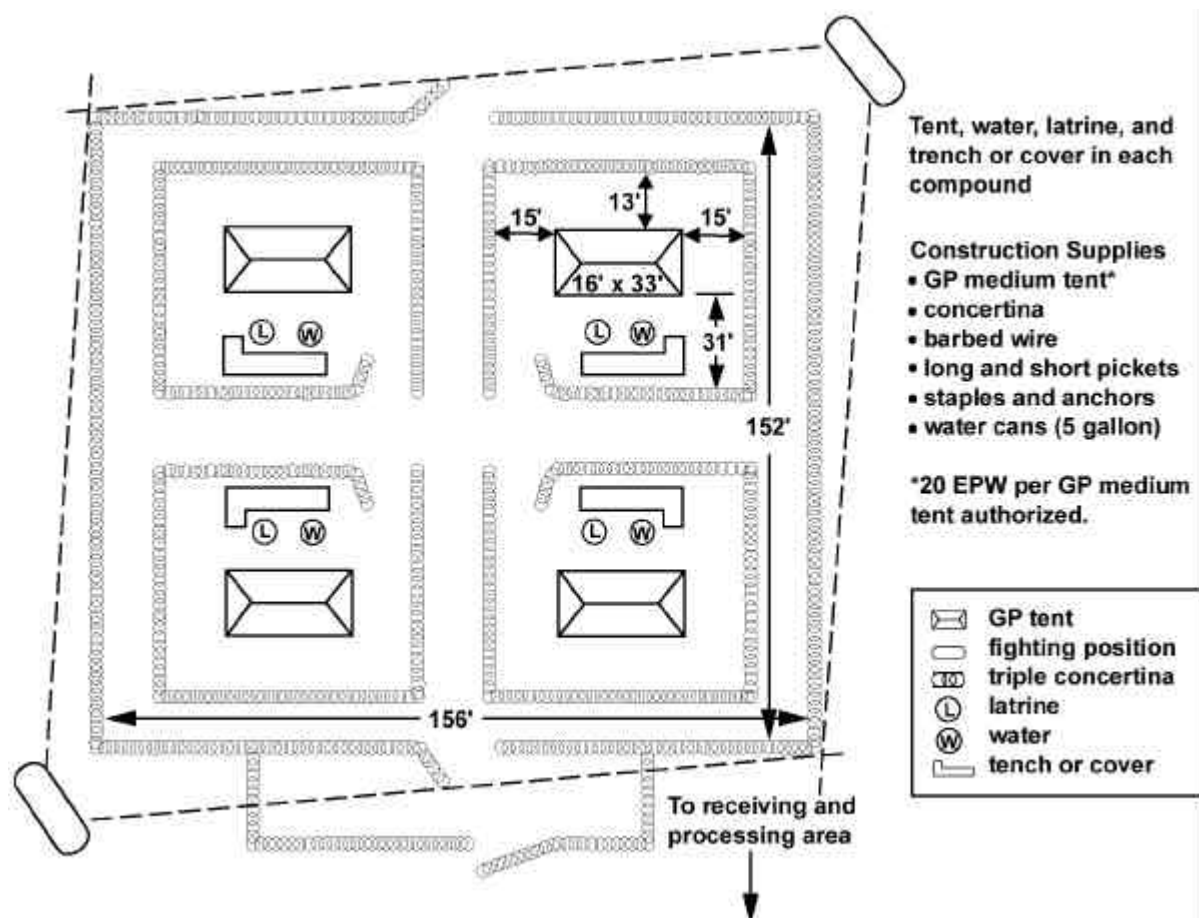


Figure 6-2. Example of a Central Collecting Point.

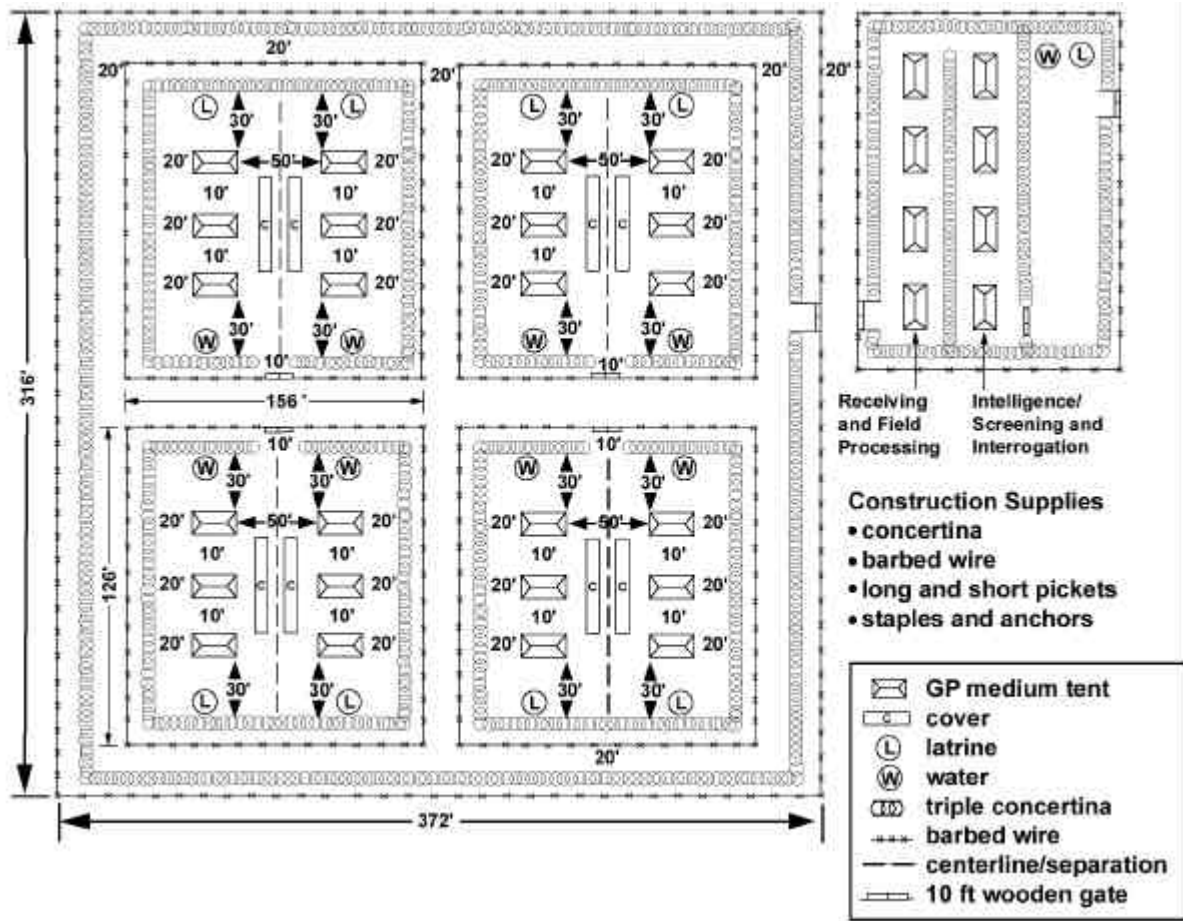


Figure 6-3. Example of an EPW Holding Area.

Processing

Proper processing of EPWs and CIs is essential for security and effective control of prisoners and for intelligence gathering purposes. Processing also helps to establish the condition and welfare requirements of EPWs and CIs. Field processing actions include individual searches, segregation, interrogation, sanitation, medical care, and classification measures.

Searches

Immediately upon capture, EPWs and CIs must be disarmed and searched for concealed weapons and for equipment and documents of particular intelligence value. If capturing forces are unable to search prisoners, then military police will do so when they receive the prisoners.

During this phase of processing, items that may be of interest to intelligence personnel are confiscated by the military police and turned over to interrogation

teams. Military police work closely with military intelligence teams to determine if captives and their equipment have intelligence value. Normally, military police permit EPWs and CIs to retain personal effects, to include—

- ┆ Money.
- ┆ Valuables.
- ┆ Protective equipment (e.g., helmets, protective masks).
- ┆ Articles used for clothing or eating (except knives and forks).
- ┆ Identification cards or tags.
- ┆ Badges of grade and nationality.
- ┆ Articles having a personal or sentimental value.

Segregation and Interrogation

Military police segregate EPWs and CIs by categories to expedite the intelligence gathering and interrogation process. Officers, senior noncommissioned officer,

and other personnel that may provide vital information are separated and identified. Intelligence personnel conduct interrogations.

Sanitation

Military police provide EPWs and CI with sanitation facilities and supplies as soon as possible to permit them to disinfest themselves and their clothing of vermin. Soap and washing facilities are also made available when possible.

Medical Care

Military police coordinate and ensure that medical care, equipment, and supplies are administered to EPWs and CIs. Although they are normally not assigned to medical facilities to process or guard captives, military police may be tasked to escort prisoners to medical facilities for medical care. Military police process these captives after medical personnel classify their physical condition.

Classification

Before evacuation, EPWs and CIs are medically classified as walking wounded, nonwalking wounded, or sick. Walking wounded are evacuated through MP evacuation channels. Nonwalking wounded and sick are delivered to the nearest medical aid station and evacuated through medical channels.

Evacuation

Military police coordinate the prompt evacuation of EPWs and CIs out of the combat zone. The evacuation chain moves from the forward collecting point to the rear area holding areas. In a joint operation, EPWs and CIs are moved to an U.S. Army internment camp.

Requirements

Throughout the evacuation process, military police treat EPWs and CIs humanely by ensuring—

- 1 They are not used to shield areas or facilities from attack.
- 1 They are not retained for psychological operations.
- 1 Food, potable water, appropriate clothing and shelter, and medical attention are provided if necessary.
- 1 They are provided protective facilities and equipment in case of NBC attack.
- 1 Rigorous security is maintained to prevent escape and to protect U.S. Forces.

Routes

Evacuation routes for EPWs and CIs are predetermined by the location of MSRs, rail lines, airfields, and the mode of transportation (e.g., foot, vehicle, rail, aircraft, ship).

Temporary Holding Facilities

When distances or conditions preclude the completion of EPW and CI movement, military police may establish temporary holding facilities along the evacuation route. If possible, military police select existing facilities that provide shelter from the elements as well as a perimeter fence, wall, or other barrier for security.

Security

Specific guidance concerning security requirements during the evacuation process as well as other information on internment operations can be found in FM 19-40, *Enemy Prisoners of War, Civilian Internees, and Detained Persons*.

Guiding Principles

Regardless of how EPWs and CIs are evacuated to the rear, military police are guided by the following principles:

- 1 Prompt evacuation to the rear.
- 1 Noninterference with tactical movements of U.S. or combined forces.
- 1 Maximum use of transportation returning to the rear.
- 1 Close liaison and maximum assistance from higher echelons.

Dislocated Civilian Internment Operations

Dislocated civilians are initially processed and handled the same as EPWs and CIs until their status is determined. Civil affairs units, in coordination with HN authorities, work to resettle dislocated civilians and refugees. Military police support these efforts by assisting in the collection, evacuation, and resettlement of these persons. During operations, military police ensure that dislocated civilian and refugee traffic does not adversely affect military maneuver and mobility by redirecting these persons out of harm's way. Dislocated civilian camps are established in the same manner as EPW and CI facilities. When internees are contained in a facility for

extended periods, dissatisfaction and restlessness may result. Commanders and military police should expect and be prepared for demonstrations, disturbances, or riots. Effective communications and rumor control measures, coupled with professional, humane treatment by security forces, will minimize the possibility and severity of disturbances in the internee population.

U.S. Military Prisoner Internment Operations

Military police have a continuing mission to detain, sustain, protect, and evacuate U.S. military prisoners.

In CONUS, corrections specialists are the primary performers of this mission.

During operations, a corrections detachment is the ideal organization to perform U.S. military prisoner internment operations. The U.S. military prisoners must be segregated from the EPWs and CIs and evacuated as rapidly as possible from the combat zone.

In a deployment, Marines awaiting trial remain with their respective units when possible. Only when they are a hazard to the mission, themselves, or others are they detained in pretrial confinement under MP control. When possible, these prisoners are moved to confinement facilities outside the combat zone.